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#### **U.S. Department of Justice**

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

The Silvio J. Mollo Building One Saint Andrew's Plaza New York, New York 10007

January 17, 2023

### **BY ECF**

The Honorable Lorna G. Schofield United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, New York 10007

Re: United States v. Whitehead, 22 Cr. 692 (LGS)

Dear Judge Schofield:

In accordance with the Court's January 13, 2022 order, the Government respectfully submits this letter in response to defendant Lamor Whitehead's motion for modification of his bail conditions or, in the alternative, the identities of victims and witnesses in this case (Dkt. No. 33, hereinafter "Motion"). In the Motion, Whitehead argues that the Government must disclose the identities of victims and witnesses in this case because his bail conditions—to which he consented in open court—include a prohibition on contact with such persons. In the alternative, Whitehead argues that this prohibition must be lifted. The Court should reject these arguments and deny the Motion.

The prohibition on contact between a defendant and the victims or witnesses in his case is a standard bail condition in this District. Indeed, it is so standard that it is pre-printed on the bond form. (Dkt. No.  $8 \, \P 7(g)$ ). Yet, as the Court is no doubt aware, courts in this district do not require the Government to provide a witness list to the defendant at the start of the case. This is not surprising.

First, it is difficult to imagine that a defendant would (or could) be charged with violating the conditions of his release by having contact with someone he did not know was either a victim or witness in his case. See generally United States v. Jones, No. 85 CR 1075 (CSH), 1986 WL 12711, at \*1 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 6, 1986) (finding violation of bail conditions where defendant acted knowingly and willfully).

Second, defendants are not entitled to a witness list at such an early stage of a case. See, e.g., United States v. Ulbricht, No. 14-CR-68 KBF, 2014 WL 7273954, at \*1 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 12, 2014) (finding disclosure of witness list three days before trial sufficient); United States v. Rivera, No. 09-CR-619 (SJF), 2010 WL 1438787, at \*4 (E.D.N.Y. Apr. 7, 2010) ("Insofar as defendants request disclosure of the identities of government's witnesses, the prosecution has no general duty to disclose the identity of its witnesses who will testify against defendants in advance of trial, nor does Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure require the government to furnish the

names of its witnesses prior to trial" (citations omitted)). Moreover, the defendant is plainly aware of the identities of the primary victims in this case, since he is engaged in civil litigation with them.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, Whitehead's complaints about lack of a speedy Government response (see Motion 2) are unwarranted. Whitehead's counsel reached out to the Government on January 13, 2023 by a 10:48 a.m. email and filed the Motion—claiming "urgent" circumstances and the need for "emergency" judicial action—at 5:17 p.m. the same day, before the Government could confer with him. But Whitehead has identified no reason to believe that he was in imminent danger of inadvertently speaking with an unidentified Government witness, or that the Government would seek his remand if such an unlikely accident occurred. The Government therefore respectfully submits that the resources of the Court and the parties would be more efficiently used if the defendant reserved "urgent" "emergency" filings for true emergencies.

For the foregoing reasons, the Motion should be denied, and Whitehead's bail conditions should remain unmodified.

Respectfully submitted,

DAMIAN WILLIAMS United States Attorney

By: /s/
Hagan Scotten
Celia Cohen
Andrew Rohrbach
Assistant United States Attorneys

Tel.: (212) 637-2410 / 2466 / 2345

As the Court is aware based on discussions at the January 12, 2023, conference, Victim-1 and her son have an open civil case against Whitehead. In addition, after his receipt of discovery in this case, Whitehead filed a civil suit against Victim-2, seeking a declaratory judgment concerning certain facts that he appears to believe are material to Count Three. (*See* Ex. A). Although the Government has not yet determined the appropriate response to this novel attempt to influence a victim in a federal criminal case by pursuing civil litigation against him, this suit suffices to show—at the very least—that Whitehead has identified the victims at issue.

# **EXHIBIT A**

FILED: NASSAU COUNTY CLERK 01/09/2023 10:01 PM INDEX NO. 600462/2023

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NASSAU

LAMOR WHITEHEAD,	
Plaintiff,	
v.	Index No.
	Date Index No. Purchased:
	SUMMONS
Defendants.	

To the above-named Defendants:

You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. The basis of venue is CPLR § 503(c) based on Defendant's residence in Nassau County, NY.

Dated: New York, New York January 9, 2023 Respectfully submitted,

Brian L. Ponder, Esq. BRIAN PONDER LLP TRIAL LAWYERS

745 Fifth Avenue, Suite 500

New York, New York 10151-0099

Telephone: (646) 450-9461

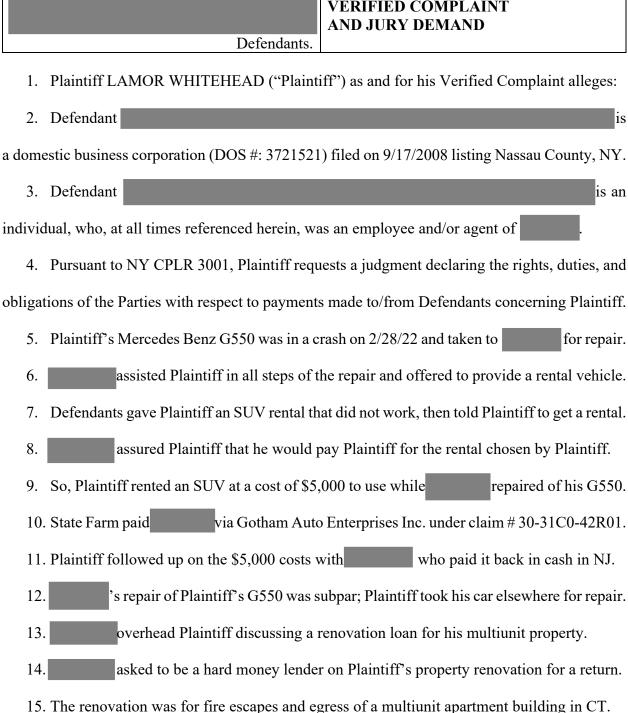
Facsimile: (646) 607-9238 (not for service) Email: <u>brian@brianponder.com</u> (not for service)

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

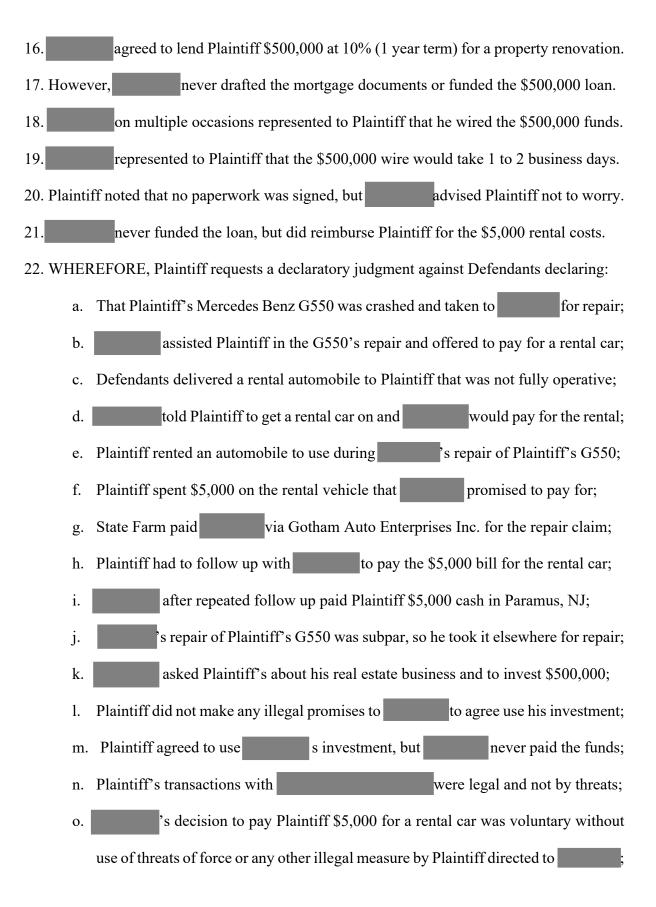
'ILED: NASSAU COUNTY CLERK 01/09/2023 10:01 PM INDEX NO. 600462/202

## SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NASSAU

LAMOR WHITEHEAD,	
Plaintiff,	
V.	
	Index No.
	VERIFIED COMPLAINT
	AND JURY DEMAND
Defendants.	



FILED: NASSAU COUNTY CLERK 01/09/2023 10:01 PM INDEX NO. 600462/202 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:22-cr-00692-LGS Document 36 Filed 01/17/23 Page 6 of 8 NYSCEF: 01/09/202



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Dated: New York, New York January 9, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

INDEX NO. 600462/2023

### SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NASSAU

COUNTIONASSAC	
LAMOR WHITEHEAD,	
Plaintiff,	
,	Index No.
V.	
	PLAINTIFF'S VERIFICATION
	PURSUANT TO NY C.P.L.R. § 3020
,	
Defendants.	
Defendants.	

- I, LAMOR WHITEHEAD, swear, affirm, and declare under penalty of perjury and state:
- 1. I am the plaintiff in the above-entitled civil action;

07/25/2025

- 2. I have read the foregoing **VERIFIED COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND** and know the contents thereof; and
- 3. The same are true to my knowledge, except as to matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

Dated: 01/09/2023	Lamor Whitehead
L	AMOR WHITEHEAD
State of Florida	
County of Broward	
Before me,RONY JEAN	, on this day personally appeared,
	ose name is subscribed on the foregoing instrument
	e same for the purposes and consideration therein
expressed. Given under my hand and seal of off	ice this
Long Jean	.millite.
Notary Public's Signature	RONY JEAN
Printed: RONY JEAN	Notary Public - State of Florida
My commission expires:	Commission # HH 139046 Expires on July 25, 2025

Notarized online using audio-video communication